

just because of Israel's role as a strategic military ally in what is a notoriously unstable part of the world, although that alone would justify the maintenance of strong aid and assistance to Israel, not just because of Israel's status as the only true democracy in the Middle East, although that, too, would call upon the United States to give its unwavering support. Beyond those things, for many Americans there is a deeper, usually unspoken reason that the United States must never depart from its staunch support for the State of Israel. In the wake of World War II and its tragic legacy for the Jewish people, the existence of Israel will always be a profound moral and spiritual imperative for the United States.

On a return trip just 2 years ago, I had the opportunity to witness the growth and change that has occurred in Israel since my first visit a generation earlier. From the technology being developed in the "Silicon Wadi" to the advances in health care and preservation of the ecosystem, Israel is a model for other industrialized nations.

Mr. Speaker, in the last 60 years, Israel has demonstrated time and time again its value to the world, not just in geopolitical terms, but in what its people have given us in ingenuity, innovation and expression. This anniversary offers us an occasion to thank the people of Israel for their strength, their courage, and their enormous contributions to our global community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OUTLAW BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, CBS News recently ran an expose on the growing phenomenon of illegal aliens entering the United States in order to give birth to a child. The segment shed some light on what has become an increasingly costly burden to the United States taxpayer.

An estimated 300,000 children of illegal aliens are born in this country every year, largely because of a misguided policy of so-called "birthright citizenship." This peculiar policy confers U.S. citizenship on any child born here regardless of what country their parents are from or whether those parents are here in the United States legally. We are one of few—in fact, we may be the only country now that still provides for this particular kind of citizenship.

And it's based on a very strange sort of interpretation of the 14th amendment, one part of the 14th amendment in particular. We all recognize of course that when the 14th amendment was written there was no such thing as illegal immigration. Certainly, there could have been no reference to it in the amendment itself. And what we need to do, frankly, is to pass legislation in this House and in the Senate, and the President needs to sign it, outlawing this practice and this habit, really, that we have gotten into, which is more than anything else a phenomenon of custom more than it is of actual law or analysis of the legal system or the Constitution of the United States. We should pass legislation to outlaw it and let it be tested at the Supreme Court. It results not just in the benefit for a child who is born as a U.S. citizen, it also makes it easier for the parent of that anchor baby or the illegal alien to become a U.S. citizen through that child.

The story on CBS focused on one woman who had crossed over the Rio Grande with her husband and two other children to give birth in the United States. She gave birth to a healthy 8½ pound baby on American soil after American doctors performed a C-section, a procedure that carries a price tag of nearly \$5,000, a bill that was sent to the American taxpayer.

Joe Riley, the CEO of the McAllen Texas Medical Center near the Texas-Mexico border, said this sort of thing is quite typical. He told CBS news that he had seen "mothers about to give birth that walk up to the hospital still wet from swimming across the river in actual labor, dirty, wet, cold, here to have a child in the United States."

Mr. Riley's hospital alone is forced to provide uncompensated care worth more than \$200 million each to cover the cost of nearly the 3,000 illegal alien births that take place there annually. Even more startling, that equates to about 50 percent of all the births in that hospital, meaning doctors are delivering almost as many children for illegal aliens as they are for American mothers. In California alone, by the way, the cost for illegal alien health care, not just for the births of illegal alien children, but the cost of health care for illegal aliens is over \$1 billion a year; one State, over \$1 billion a year.

With statistics like that, Mr. Speaker, it should come as no surprise that many American hospitals are on the verge of collapse—some, in fact, have gone that way—and that billions of taxpayer dollars are being squandered on illegal aliens that are taking advantage of the health care program.

It's time we yank back the illegal alien welcome mat, eliminate perverse incentives for illegal immigration like birth right citizenship and taxpayer services for illegal aliens.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ELLISON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TIME FOR AN OIL CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, Friday, President Bush will visit Saudi Arabia to meet with King Abdullah and other key Saudi leaders. According to the White House, the President's visit will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the formal establishment of U.S.-Saudi relations.

Of course the underlying reason for the trip to Riyadh is to beg the Saudis to produce more oil. Faced with \$4 a gallon gasoline—it was \$3.99 this week in Ohio, and already exceeding over \$4 in many parts of our country—a prospect which the President recently questioned would even happen, now the President is reduced to begging the Saudis, who literally have us over a barrel.

Record-high gasoline prices are hurting American families, American truckers and American businesses. The average price of gasoline has more than doubled since this President was placed in office. Fuel costs now account for 10 percent of the average family's budget. It is especially hard for people who have to drive to work, such as people in rural areas. It's hard for farmers and truckers who have seen diesel prices spiral way out of control.

And still we have no real leadership on a new energy policy from this White House, no policy for making our great Nation less dependent on undemocratic theocracies such as Saudi Arabia, and no policy to move away from the carbon-based economy and ease the pressure on our fragile planet. Under George W. Bush, America has gone backwards.

Last year, the United States imported 1.45 million barrels of crude oil from Saudi Arabia every single day of the year. Can you imagine that? 530 million barrels in 1 year. In fact, since this President has taken office, we, as a country, are importing a billion more barrels a year, a billion more barrels a year. Less independent, more dependent.

It just so happens America is the world's number one importer of crude and Saudi Arabia is the world's number one exporter. Fourteen percent of our Nation's oil addiction is supplied just by dealers in Saudi Arabia. That doesn't count Kuwait and all the surrounding countries, like Bahrain, et cetera.

Last year, we imported \$237 billion worth of crude oil, one-third of a trillion dollars. That's when the average price per barrel was \$64. This year, that number will probably top \$300 billion, and rising.